



Broadcast
Educational
Media
Commission

Broadcast Educational Media Commission Meeting Agenda
Thursday, February 09, 2023, at 10:00 AM
2470 North Star Road Columbus, Ohio 43221

I. Call to Order

- A. Roll Call
- B. Welcome to virtual audience /housekeeping
- C. Swearing in: Kenneth Cookson
- D. New Assistant Attorney General Erin Kelly
- E. Approval of November 10, 2022 meeting minutes
- F. Commission Committees
- G. Elect Third Member of Executive Committee

Robert C. Smith,
Chairman
Laura Bryson,
CIO

II. Finance

- A. February 2023 Financial Statement
- B. New Purchase Above \$50,000
- C. Governor's FY 24 -25 Operating Budget for BEMC

Alina Gage,
CFO

Geoffrey A. Phillips,
Executive Director

III. 2470 North Star Facility

- A. BEMC replacements of end-of-life systems
- B. Ohio State University Real Estate replacements & improvements

Craig Stevenson,
CE&BO
James Lentz,
OSU Real Estate

IV. Educational Technology

- A. Ohio Department of Education focuses on FY 24 – 25 Operating Proposal
- B. Ohio Learns 360

Laura Bryson
Sarah Wilson,
Tutoring and Policy Admin
Gloria Skurski,
ThinkTV

V. Staff Leadership Messages

- A. Executive
- B. Engineering and Operations

Geoffrey A. Phillips
Craig Stevenson

VI. Executive Session

Robert C. Smith

VII. Adjournment

Next meeting **May 11, 2023** at BEMC Headquarters

2470 North Star Rd, Columbus, OH 43221-3405 PH.
614.485.6000 / 877.383.2406



Broadcast Educational Media Commission Meeting Minutes
February 09, 2023
2470 North Star Road, Columbus, OH 43221

I. **Call to Order:** At 10:00 a.m., Chairman Robert Smith opened the meeting of the Broadcast Educational Media Commission.

A. **Roll Call:** At 10:00 a.m., roll call was conducted by Mrs. Gage.

Members Present:

Chairman Robert Smith
Commissioner Geoffrey Andrews
Commissioner Kenneth Cookson
Commissioner Matt Dole
Commissioner Stephen Freeze, Esq.
Commissioner Sandi Thompson
Commissioner Meira Zucker

Members Arriving Later:

Members Absent:

Commissioner Rex Elsass
Designee Charles See
Designee Dr. Chris Woolard
Non-Voting State Senator Niraj Antani
Non-Voting State Representative Sharon Ray

A quorum was declared.

Also Present:

Executive Director Geoffrey A. Phillips;
Craig Stevenson, Chief of Engineering and Broadcast Operations Officer;
Laura Bryson, Chief Information Officer;
Alina Gage, Chief Financial Officer;
Erin Kelly, Assistant Attorney General;

And Interested Citizens:

David Carwile, Administrator of Ohio Educational Television Stations, Inc;
James Lentz, Real Estate, Ohio State University;
Sarah Wilson, Tutoring and Policy Administrator, Ohio Department of Education;
Amy Ita, Ohio Attorney General's Office;
and Susan Kratzer, Hannah News.

Also Present Virtually:

Kevin Martin, Chairman of the Ohio Educational Television Stations;
Gloria Skurski, ThinkTV;
and Mark Jividen, Chairman, Ohio Reading Radio Alliance

B. Welcome and Housekeeping:

1. Ms. Bryson gave an update on new technology installed in the conference room and how the microphones operate.
2. New Commissioner Kenneth Cookson was sworn in by AAG Erin Kelly.
 - a. Mr. Cookson provided details about his career experience and volunteer work.
3. New AAG Erin Kelly was introduced to the commission and provided a brief introduction.

Resolution 23-27: Motion to Approve November 10, 2022 Meeting Minutes

10:04 a.m. – Mr. Dole moved for approval of the November 10, 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Freeze seconded. The motion passed via unanimous roll call vote.

4. Chairman Smith discussed the plan for FY23 committees and listed the members of the committees.

Resolution 23-28: Motion to Elect member of the Executive Committee

10:06 a.m. – Mr. Smith moved to elect Ms. Zucker as a member of the Executive Committee. Mr. Dole seconded. The motion passed via unanimous roll call vote.

II. Finance

- A. Mrs. Gage reviewed the February 2023 financial statement and said the commission is on track for FY23 spending. All television, radio, and radio reading services payment have been made to stations. The last multimedia payment will be sent in May 2023.
 - a. A new chart showing spending was shared and feedback was given to continue using it at future meetings.
- B. Ex. Dir. Phillips shared that due to a new contract with Lumen, it is expected the purchase order will need to be increased to a total of about \$54,000.
 - a. Discussion occurred about why a Federal Universal Service Fee is being charged, thus causing the cost to go over \$50,000. Ex. Dir. Phillips said BEMC is not being charged this fee from other fiber providers and is working with Lumen on a solution.

Resolution 23-29: Motion to Permit Executive Director to Issue Purchase Order in Excess of \$50,000

10:23 a.m. – Ms. Thompson moved to approve the Executive Director to issue a purchase order in excess of \$50,000 to Lumen. Mr. Freeze seconded. The motion passed via unanimous roll call vote.

- C. Executive Director Phillips discussed the governor's recommendation for the FY24-25 operating budget and shared a one-page overview document. He explained the increase

recommended for Asset Line Item (ALI) 435430, the flat funding recommended for Statehouse News Bureau/broadcasting affiliates, and the intricacies with Ohio Government Telecommunications recommendation.

- a. Statehouse New Bureau (SNB) and Content Development recommendations are to hold FY24 and FY25 funding at FY23 levels.
- b. BEMC was recommended for the increase requested.
- c. Ohio Government Telecommunications (OGT) received an additional appropriation of \$90,000 in HB45, for a total of \$2,009,526 in FY23. The governor's recommendation for FY24 and FY25 is \$1,947,255.
- d. Mr. Martin, WVIZ, shared it has been many years since SNB requested an increase. The number of distribution mechanisms and the expectation of instant news is reflected in the SNB request. They are prepared to promote this to the House and Senate.
 - i. Ex. Dir. Phillips reminded the commission of the three-legged stool analogy.
 - ii. Mr. Freeze asked if the request was currently a paper presentation (no oral presentation). Ex. Dir. Phillips confirmed. Mr. Freeze asked what OBM is finding lacking. Mr. Dole clarified that flat funding is normal at this stage of the budget. Ex. Dir. Phillips shared there is a meeting with Legislative Services Commission to answer some of the questions raised by legislators.
 - iii. Mr. Andrews asked if there is overlap in projects between ALI's. Ex. Dir. Phillips stated no.

III. **2470 North Star Facility**

- A. Mr. Stevenson gave an update on the systems reaching end-of-life status. These include the 20-ton Liebert system, security system, and fire system.
 1. The Liebert system has one quote at over \$160,000 and will be paid out of capital funds. It is expected to be on the agenda for the May 2023 commission meeting.
 2. The fire and security systems have been quoted, but each has clauses for hazardous materials (asbestos). Ohio State University performed an inspection and has determined evacuation of the affected areas is not required. Recommendations should be on the agenda at the May 2023 commission meeting.
- B. Mr. Lentz, Ohio State University Real Estate, provided information on building replacements and improvements required by memorandum of understanding. He said the asbestos testing was reported as negative in the areas tested but is aware that asbestos does exist in areas not tested. Building-wide abatement is not necessary, only in the areas of concern, but proactive remediation is the goal.
 1. Septic system rehab meeting is scheduled, some windows and exterior doors will be replaced, HVAC will be replaced, boiler system replacement will be replaced (date not determined), and the hill/pit area discussions have occurred.

IV. **Educational Technology**

1. Sarah Wilson, Ohio Department of Education Tutoring and Policy Administrator, shared a slide presentation on Future Forward Ohio.
 - a. Ms. Wilson discussed the program. Chairman Smith asked about partnership opportunities and Ms. Wilson confirmed those partnerships are occurring.

- b. Ms. Wilson shared more detail about the Accelerated Learning focus. Priorities are in literacy and mathematics, as testing shows students are not at pre-pandemic levels yet. This includes a statewide grant and funding in House Bill 583. Over 800 tutors were hired and over 2,000 students have been provided tutoring services.
 - i. Mr. Andrews asked how tutors are identified. Ms. Wilson provided the networks used to find tutors.
 - ii. Mr. Freeze asked how students are identified. Ms. Wilson said there are models used to identify students. He asked if tutors are compensated. This was affirmed in some cases.
 - c. Complementary initiatives were listed, a link was provided for more information, and a video was shared on drivers' education.
 - 2. Gloria Skurski, ThinkTV, provided an update on Ohio Learns 360.
 - a. Grant was awarded for \$5 million and activities will occur September 2022 through July 2024. Partnerships exist with all Ohio PBS stations.
 - b. The program works with out of school providers to include afterschool programs.
 - c. Five components are Camp-in-a-Box, After School 360, Virtual Field Trips, Community events, and Family Webinars.
 - i. Collaboration has begun to reach Spanish speaking families and subtitles are available on most virtual programs.
 - ii. Four Camp-in-a-Box sets have been created and over 600 providers received training.
 - iii. Stations have access to a dashboard so each can upload data to measure impact of programs.

V. **Staff Leadership Messages**

- 1. Ex. Dir Phillips shared updates to WOSU general manager, recognized Mr. Dave Carwile's retirement from WOSU, and WNEO general manager retirement.
- 2. Mr. Stevenson provided data about engineering and broadcast operations. PBS is migrating between satellites. BEMC achieved 100% accuracy the week of January 15, 2023.

VI. **Executive Session**

Resolution 23-30: Motion to Enter Executive Session

11:38 p.m. - Mr. Smith moved to enter executive session. Mr. Andrews seconded. The motion passed via roll call vote.

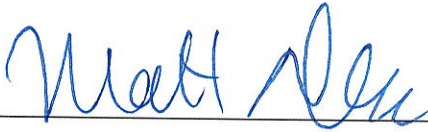
Resolution 23-31: Motion to Reprimand Employee

12:22 p.m. - Mr. Smith moved to issue a written warning to an employee. Mr. Andrews seconded. The motion passed via roll call vote.

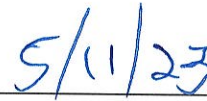
VII. **Adjournment:**

Resolution 23-32: Motion for Adjournment

12:22 p.m. - Meeting adjourned without dissent.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Dole", written over a horizontal line.

Matt Dole, Chairman
Broadcast Educational Media Commission

A handwritten date "5/11/23" in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Date